



FOREST BASED RECREATION

Forest based recreation in Wisconsin includes hunting, camping, snowmobiling, hiking, fishing, all terrain motor vehicle use, watching wildlife, off-road biking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, plant collecting, and pack animal use. Thus, there is an array of user groups whose recreational values may not always parallel. Differing views on the types of uses allowed within forests raise the need to work with different user groups to develop a coordinated vision for forest based recreation within your community.

Some Reasons to Plan for Forest based Recreation

- Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation. Of this total spending, roughly \$2.5 billion are spent in local regions within close proximity to recreational sites.
- The popularity of motorized recreation is increasing, which raises the need for public conversation and planning to minimize recreational user conflicts.
- With the increase of forested land in non-industrial private ownership, the amount of forestland open to the public is decreasing, which raises the need to ensure access for recreational opportunities on public forestlands.
- Forests are in demand for a mix of uses, such as timber removal, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Planning for the different resources provided by forests is necessary to ensure that the needs of the community are met and that forest resources are sustained.

Tools to Address Forest based Recreation Across All Elements of Your Comprehensive Plan

- Assess the current status of forest based recreation in your community and identify ways to improve public access to forests.
- Develop an outdoor recreation plan by collaborating with the parks and natural resources/forestry departments to coordinate a public vision for forest based recreational opportunities.
- Acquire, transfer, or purchase development rights or work with local organizations to place conservation easements on large blocks of forestland to ensure that forestland will be available in the future.
- Work with service clubs and organizations related to the maintenance and development of forest based recreational facilities and activities and provide sufficient resources as necessary.



For more planning tools go to the
**Smart Forestry for Smart Growth
Planner's Toolbox**
on the web at



<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/SmartForestry>